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TO: Concerned Agencies

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**Commercial Herring Fishery to Close in Management Area 1A on November 10, 2001**

Based on quota monitoring projections by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 95% of the Atlantic herring Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Management Area 1A (see attached map), will be harvested by November 10, 2001. NMFS has announced that pursuant to 50CFR648.202, effective 0001 hours, November 10, 2001, vessels issued federal permits for Atlantic herring may not retain or land more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring from Management Area 1A per trip or calendar day for the remainder of the 2001 fishery.

Amendment 1 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring states that once NMFS announces the closure of a Management Area, states must prohibit the landing of herring from that closed area as well as prohibit directed fishing for Atlantic herring in state waters of that closed area. Massachusetts must take this action to comply with ASMFC management plans for these species and consequently, DMF will close the directed herring fishery in the state waters portion of Management Area 1A for the period November 10 through December 31. The fishery will be re-opened on January 1, 2002.

During this closure, vessels participating in other fisheries may retain and land an incidental catch of herring from Management Area 1A that does not exceed 2,000 pounds per trip.

For more information, Contact DMF at 617-626-1520.

